Old Timers.

There are a number of people in the Province who in my opinion, and their own, have a real grievance, and it seems to be only just, that the Government should do something for them - I refer to the "Old Timers" - They are continually telling us of the good old Times that they used to have before settlement came in, encouraged by the Government, which has upset all their good old Customs & manner of living - I would suggest that the Government set aside an "Old Timers Reserve" for real Old Timers only - Indians and Half Breeds would be allowed to camp on the Reserve, & I would admit remittance men from the Old country, provided the remittances were large enough for the Old Timers to get their share - The Old Timers might retain the old time customs & abusing there men while they go

2. their legitimate share of the spoils -

Inside the Reserve no surveying should be done - Each Old Timer would select on the location he selected, putting 4 logs at each corner to hold his claim - All the land in sight of this location he had claim as his own, and no real Old Timer would think of disputing it - No wire fences would be allowed, rails only to be used, & only a small pasture to be enclosed for his team & Cayuses - The more enterprising Old Timers might fence in 5 acres or so for a garden & green feed patch -

The only implements allowed would be a mower, rake & walking plough - The house & barn should be built of logs with sod or hay roofs -

The Old Timers food should consist of bread, dry Salt bacon Beef eggs and dried apples - No milk cows should be allowed on the Reserve -

There would be no taxes as the real old Timer prefers prairie trails to roads of any sort, and as in the nature of things his children of any would be past school age there would be no need for school taxes.
Telephones, Radio & motor cars to be be prohibited. The old Timers to get around in buckboards or on horseback as in the good old days.
There should be a store in the middle of the Reserve where the mail would come in once a week & where The Old Timers could sit around on soap boxes & chew the rag. They would find it much more to their taste than spending their time in the rotunda of The Palser or Macdonald lamenting the old days. Only T. & B. tobacco should be sold at the store & no cigarettes.
I would suggest a few stopping houses

Run on the old lines. A Bachelor cook, meals to consist of dry salt bacon with or without eggs and bread. dried apples as a luxury - Travellers would bring their own blankets and sleep on the floor.

On this Reserve there would be no dust storms or soil drifting because the soil would always be the right side up as Providence intended it to be, Cut worms would be unknown there being nothing for them to Eat, & there being no crops, Summer frosts & hail would cause no alarm. Politics would not disturb the peace of the community - There being no Roads, Telephones, Railways or Schools, there would be nothing for Provincial Candidates to talk about & there being no taxes the Provincial Debt and the no interest -

The Dominion members could carry

on as they did before, when very few old Timers even knew their names. — No Doctors or Lawyers would be allowed on the Reserve — In the good old days if an Old Timer ever took sick he either recovered or died & that was all there was to it — and if neighbours had a dispute they knew how to settle it, without the aid of Lawyers.

As a sideline this Old Timers' Reserve might become a great attraction for Tourists, and many of the old customs & experiences could be re-enacted for their benefit. For instance — A bachelor cook at a stopping house, could be seen cooking a meal with the seat of his pants torn off, a lady & gentleman expostulating & the cook telling them they camp elsewhere if they did not like

by the look of his pants - Another
Old Timer could show how he c.
live quite comfortably down a well
instead of going to the trouble of
building a house - Another could
let his hair grow, and give up
boosting as a cure for Consumption -
yes, Another could illustrate how
cutting up firewood could be
dispensed with by poking a log
into a box stove & keeping the door
open till enough of the log was
burnt to allow the door to be shut -
And so on ad infinitum.
To conclude a few half breed
dances kept up all night and the
next day, by way of amusement,
and as a "lift" when the whiskey
runs out, try "Pain Killer" mixed
with a little water in a coal oil Tin -
And as a last suggestion the
Government might make a present

7.

If the Reserve to the last
survivor of the Old Timers.
This might be an inducement
to some of them to stick it out.—

Walter Darby

26. 6. 45.

Alix.
Alberta.

Editor - Alberta Folklore quarterly -
University of Alberta.
Edmonton

Dear Sir

I find the Alberta Folklore Quarterly, very interesting & I enclose $1.00 for years subn -

You ask for contributions so I am enclosing an article wh you may consider worth printing - The circumstances mentioned are all facts wh actually happened when I came to Alberta 56 years ago -

Yours truly.

Wallis C. H. Pardy.

No 111

June 29, 1945.

Mr. Walter C.H. Parlby
Alix, Alberta.

Dear Mr. Parlby:

Thank you for your letter of the 26th and the enclosures. You do not state with which issue of the Quarterly you wish your subscription to start so I am sending the June issue under separate cover. If you already have this issue kindly let us know.

Thank you, too, for your article. We are very glad to receive it. I will bring it to Mr. Godsell's attention when he arrives and he will know better where it can be used.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss)Roberta B. Kiefer
for
The Alberta Folklore and
Local History Project.

RK